

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

The rains have ruined many prospective nubbins.

The point has apparently been broken off the good German sword.

Sammies enjoy big hospitals.—Headline. And, better still, pretty nurses.

Racing has ended in Kentucky for the present year. Ended before it began.

Even from Germany come intermittent reports of revolutionary outbreaks.

The Sammys and the polios are hitting the boche where they live, so to speak.

The Franco-American thrust was some drive, but was not able to overtake the Kaiser.

Chairman Will H. Hays is working earnestly to win the war by first winning the election.

Requirements of the new revenue bill have given congress an acute attack of cold feet.

China is to get a good-sized loan from the allies, which ought to put the Chinks in good fellowship.

The Poles seem inclined to further complicate Austria's already aggravated case of internal indigestion.

If Von Hertling's references to Belgium were not sufficiently clear, he has several other explanations on tap.

The German press was hit about as hard as the armies. The "American peril" is now becoming very real.

Col. Harvey places his stamp of approval on Charles M. Schwab, but, so far, he is unable to use Henry Ford.

Even the Italians in France took occasion to administer a few biffs for good count. Everybody's doing it now.

China is building ships for Uncle Sam, but we've had no recent information as to how Siam is passing the time.

An exchange makes the plebeian suggestion that Kentucky race horses be out to the plow, "where they belong."

A commercial traveler, just returned, declares that the South American republics are with us in the war with the Kaiser.

It seems to us that Gen. Crowder's refusal to be made a lieutenant-general has not received as much recognition as it merited.

Our Nashville correspondent terms yesterday's precipitation as a \$30,000,000 shower for Tennessee. It never rains but it pours.

If the breweries are permitted to continue operations, they may be able to subscribe for a good many more German war bonds.

Some of the folks up north and east are complaining that they have not yet had their allotted share of the good old summer time.

The war has now reached a point in its progress where you can help some by totting your own packages home from the stores.

Remarks the Jacksonville Times-Union: "Wonder whom we are going into Russia to help." It might be well enough to determine before we start.

Just when everything seems ready to turn in favor of the allies, along come the gentle showers to do their bit in helping forward the movement.

Austrian prisoners in Italy have evidently been fed on some of those cats promised by their leaders. They are not at all anxious to go back home.

Tax the luxuries. That sounds easy. Just rolls off the tongue natural like. But congress would, no doubt, be grateful for blue prints and specifications.

Every community, like every individual, has troubles of its own. In San Francisco it has been found impossible to regulate the fish catch to fit the public demand.

An American flier in France has just succeeded in marrying his best girl in Baltimore by cable. This is quite romantic, but may lack the unique features of the pattern introduced by Sergeant Young in this city.

"BATTLE IN THE STORM."

Of course, the great pride our people have in the victory yesterday is because Americans took so large a part. Now at last we are on the firing line and an important factor in the success of the allied cause. We do not know how many of our troops were in the charge at Chateau-Thierry. But as they captured over 4,000 Germans and over 100 guns they must have been in large numbers and occupying a considerable portion of the field. They are fighting in their own units, and in addition many organizations are brigaded with the French. It is presumed that the First army corps, commanded by Gen. Liggett, is in this locality, and no doubt the division under Gen. Bullard, well known here, is one of the participants. Under him are regulars who went over early in the war. The marines are also here.

The blow administered Kaiser Bill is one that ought to give him pause. It was staggering, and with the developments today may mean one of the severest repulses of the whole war. The initiative has been taken from the Huns. They are compelled to withdraw their reserves from the eastern lines of the battle front to the west. They have lost the line of communications between Chateau-Thierry and Soissons, both by rail and road, as these are under direct fire. Rheims is saved. French, Italians and Americans are bending back the enemy's lines between Rheims and the Marne and south of that river and the isolated troops there may be captured. Epernay, an important base, is out of danger. The tide of battle has turned. Not only has the crown prince suffered a reverse, it is proving a disaster.

One of the important battles of the Civil war was known as "The Battle Above the Clouds." This will go down in history, no doubt, as "The Battle in the Storm." One of the fiercest rain and thunder storms of the summer was raging when the Americans left their trenches on the charge. The roar of guns could not be heard for the noise of the elements. The surprise was complete. Fritz had not dreamed that the "Yanks" would come over "no man's land" in such a deluge.

What will be the effect in Germany? It ought to be salutary, but let us not deceive ourselves. Not only will the enemy countries not be permitted to know the facts, but even if they were we might not look for immediate results. There must be many such victories before it finally sinks into the German consciousness that war doesn't pay.

However, this, no doubt, is the beginning of a more encouraging season. The menace against Paris is not so intimately present with us. The equilibrium has passed, and with growing forces of Americans it will inevitably become predominantly in our favor.

NOT YET WARMED UP.

Interest in both the senatorial and gubernatorial races in Tennessee is growing, though the professional politician is discouraged at what in his mind continues to be a decided apathy. As we near the date of the primary, June 1, and as the various barrels, if any such exist, leak a little more positively, and as the candidates open up their verbal batteries more pointedly on each other's records and claims, we shall, no doubt, have a campaign more like old times in Tennessee.

There have been some warm contests on the hustings in the old state. Not to speak of the rivalries between John Sevier and Andrew Jackson, or in the early forties when "lean Jimmy" Jones used to rub his conk and set the crowd to laughing at James K. Polk, or when Andrew Johnson made his memorable canvasses both before and after the war, and Isham G. Harris was a figure, or even down into the days of the "War of the Roses" when Bob and Alf Taylor, or later when that southern cavalier, Edward W. Charnick, made his memorable campaigns leading to his untimely end, Tennessee has known heated political campaigns.

Probably not since the Civil war has there been as little interest as at this time or as much disinclination on the part of a voting population usually prone to factionalism to take a decided stand.

In fact it is difficult to raise any deep-living issue in any of the races. The two candidates for the senate are marshaling their forces largely in accordance with the personal attachments of each. The minds of the people are on winning the war. They are not convinced that either candidate has the edge on the other so far as patriotism is concerned. Both have been tried in public office and no serious charges of dereliction of duty have been made against either.

As far as the governorship is concerned, it has not yet developed that lively interest in the financial condition of the state government which any one who has studied this alarming situation would like to see. It will take something of that kind to interest the people in the election of proper candidates for the legislature. There is not much evidence over the state of interest in the next assembly and we fear it will be another of those mediocre, if not positively dangerous, bodies which always keeps the people on the anxious seat while it is in session.

Just as with sessions of the county court we move about uneasily in our seats while they are in session, even out the system when it has adjourned, and then take no steps to improve the personnel when the occasion arrives.

Tennessee's government was once described as the "worst in the Union." We doubt if that was true or is true now, but, like that of a good many other commonwealths, it is suffering from the indifference of a democracy. The fact is we are paying more and more attention to the federal govern-

ment and less and less to our local governments. This is not a true American tendency and we shall have to pay for this lethargy.

ALIEN ENEMY PROPERTY.

A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, bids fair soon to have his hands as full as those of Secretary McAdoo now are and as those of Mr. Burleson will be when he takes over the telegraphs and telephones. His jurisdiction is as wide as the country and it is a dull day when he doesn't take over a few million dollars' worth of foreign-owned property.

One of the latest of these seizures was that of the Becker Steel company, with a plant at Charleston, W. Va., which was taken over yesterday. This concern brings with it a secret process for the production of "high speed steel," heretofore held exclusively by the Germans. The plant will now be operated by and for the benefit of the government and, at the end of the war, accounted for or returned to its owners.

Another and perhaps larger seizure recently made by Custodian Palmer was that of the American Metals Co., Limited, of New York. This is considered the largest zinc producing concern in the country and one of the largest of copper. Not only has it been shown that it was largely operated by Germans, but an investigation by the federal trade commission discloses the fact that an attempt has been made to conceal excess profits in the payment of enormous salaries.

Six of the officials of the American Metals company were listed as drawing salaries for 1917, ranging from \$179,633.36 down to \$135,553.12. In addition to these, there were fifteen or twenty others, none of whom were said to have been paid less than \$35,000. Enterprises which can afford such salary lists are looked upon as shining marks for Uncle Sam's taxgatherers. Possession by his own custodian will also enable Uncle Sam to know exactly where the profits go.

And speaking of excess profits, the government is laying for them particularly. The profiteer has been getting more than his share and congress is expected, by means of the new revenue law, to levy a toll upon him which will measurably equalize the war burden.

The department of agriculture estimates that rats destroy \$200,000,000 worth of products a year. Herein is a hint to some of the patriotic souls who have not yet been employed to curb the Kaiser or help the Russians.

When German diplomats and publicists become persona non grata at home, they seek a breath of fresh air in Switzerland. There is probably a limit, however, to the disincantment properties even of the Swiss mountain atmosphere.

"WHAT WILL WE TELL THE FOLKS?"



(Copyrighted by the New York Tribune)

COMPULSORY VOTING.

For some time Massachusetts has had a convention at work drafting a new constitution for the state. For, be it remembered that, unlike Tennessee, the Bay state, likewise Arkansas, were not afraid to undertake the building of a new constitution in war time. The proceedings, as published in the Massachusetts papers, are very interesting. One of the problems now being considered is that of compulsory voting.

Discussing this proposed provision, the Springfield Union publishes a very intelligent editorial. That paper does not favor the scheme. While urging the necessity of discriminating and conscientious decisions upon public issues by the individual voter, it doubts exceedingly that compulsory voting would promote this end. It is feared that such a regulation would tend to impair the element of spontaneous interest which is such a vital feature of popular government.

We believe the reasoning of the Union is sound. There is a school of politicians who apparently cannot be happy without continually planning to compel somebody to do something or other, heedless of its effect upon the democracy which we all profess to cherish. One may lead a horse to water, but one cannot make him drink. A citizen may be compelled to go through the physical formula of casting a ballot, but he cannot be compelled to manifest an intelligent interest in questions before the country, however desirable that may appear.

On this point the Union observes: "It is evident that voting must be something more than a mechanical affair if the purpose of our governmental scheme is to be fulfilled, and any step that tends to make it more of a mechanical affair than it now is must be regarded as retrogressive and prejudicial to the welfare of state and nation."

And compulsory voting is largely a "mechanical affair," which would probably retard more than it would promote intelligent study of matters pertaining to our government. Public interest is generally wholesome, but it may not be stimulated by mechanical means. The citizen of a democracy has a right to participate in his government. His exercise of that right is a matter which appeals to his own discretion. His refusal to vote may be and sometimes is the exact expression of his choice.

RECORD OF 1917.

'Tis slow, 'tis true, but American efficiency is gradually asserting itself. Little by little, the country is being put upon a war basis. While the population is racking its brain to devise substitutes for meat, it is at the same time coming to realize the sinful waste of feeding worthless curs upon the choicest of mutton. In the following paragraph the Manufacturers Record notes the progress of a season:

"During 1917 the department of agriculture reports that five states enacted approved legislation to protect sheep raisers from dogs, and a number of states are likely to take similar action. Slowly but surely our lawmakers are beginning to see that in order to have more mutton and wool, the sheep industry must be safeguarded from the wandering, unrestricted sheep killing dog."

The Record does not publish the list of progressive states, but New York and Virginia are among them. The year 1918 is an off year with legislatures, but the year 1919 ought to witness quite a lengthening of the roll of honor. We hope and expect to see Tennessee wheel into line with other commonwealths which prefer flocks of sheep, mutton chops and woolen clothes to the luxury of troops of marauding dogs. Let the victories over the sheep-killing cur, the grogshop and the Hun all be celebrated together.

Friends of the dog insist that there is plenty of wool, but steadily the price advances. It is now hardly possible to obtain all-wool clothes at prices that the ordinary person can pay, and the government has found it necessary to lay priority orders on the available supply of wool for army uses. And, all the time, the hardship is purely an unnecessary one. Sheep and wool will grow almost like weeds if protected from dogs.

But sheep and dogs will not grow together. The experiment has been tried long. We must relentlessly subdue the dog menace, in the same thorough manner as we destroy German militarism, or submit to it. In neither case does there appear to be much middle ground.

Mrs. H. C. McDonald, of Butte, Mont., is a democratic candidate for congress on the practical platform of winning the war and dividing the offices with the women on a fifty-fifty basis.

America furnished some \$1,400,000,000 worth of food to her European allies last year. Still there are folks who insist that we have been slackers on the job.

Twelve American congressmen arrived in France the day before the Franco-American counter drive began, but the dispatches fail to indicate that any of them joined in the chase.

A few weeks ago, international riveting matches were being held at the shipyards. Now they are building ships by welding the plates instead of riveting them together. The U-boat has taught us speed.

It may be that Foch had been reading that poem about Sheridan's ride.

Favors Newt Bean.

Editor The News:
In your issue of the 15th we note your correspondent from Cleveland says, among other things, that there seems to be one republican in Bradley county that is dissatisfied with the excellent record of our present sheriff, Mr. Gibson, and that dissatisfied republican has nominated himself as a candidate in opposition to the present incumbent.

At the solicitation of the best element of both democrats and republicans in this county, Newt Bean is in the race for sheriff, and if that kind of citizenship counts for anything, Mr. Bean will be Bradley's next sheriff. Mr. Bean has been city marshal of Cleveland for the past two years, and there is not an officer in the county that has a cleaner record to back him than has he. Not only that, but he has a record as a citizen second to none in the county. We have nothing to say as to the present incumbent's record, as he has no doubt made a very good officer, and this article is not for the purpose of assailing the record of any one, but in defense of Mr. Bean against the assault made by the writer of the article referred to above.

T. A. WILLSON.
Charleston, Tenn., July 17, 1918.
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THRIFT STAMP SLACKER WOULD CARVE PRESTON

Resents Being Published in Slacker List and Makes It Very Personal Matter.

To "carve up" T. R. Preston, among other dire possibilities, was the threat of an agriculturist in one of the counties north of Hamilton, who, resenting the threat of being placed on the thrift stamp slacker list, was inclined to make the issue more or less a personal matter. So it is that the ways of the W. S. S. director are hard. Mr. Preston sits at his desk and smiles but declines to discuss the details of his prospective severance. It is at least known, however, that numerous both humorous and irate letters are received by the director from the steadily waning personnel of the slacker band. Most vicious of them all so far was that from the rural gentleman with a fondness for knives, who promises a journey to Chattanooga to "carve" Mr. Preston, personally and individually should his (the farmer's) name appear in any published list of thrift stamp slackers.

Mr. Preston states that the most gratifying reports are steadily coming in from the delinquent counties and that there is no doubt but that Tennessee will go over the top for its full quota.

BOYD HARGRAVES ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

Friends of Boyd W. Hargraves, well-known young attorney, who hovered between life and death at his home on Lewis street, in Ridgeville, for several days, will be gratified to learn that he has improved sufficiently to be up again. He has been suffering from rheumatism which affected his heart. For a time it was not thought that he would recover, but his strong constitution and will power withstood the critical attack, and he now appears to be well on the road to recovery.

Mr. Hargraves was a liberty loan speaker and he was stricken during the last campaign. He was very active in doing his bit that the loan drive might be successful in this section. He overtaxed himself and was forced to take to his bed.

UNUSUAL VOICE SURPRISE OF VAUDEVILLE PROGRAM

There is an unusual collection of acts at the Hilitto for the last three days of the week; unusual not so much in its superiority to the run of shows at this play as in its grouping. The bill is almost entirely musical, interspersed here and there with a bit of comedy and gymnastics. Of course, the Big City Four is the feature attraction of the five. The singers have been here before and find popular favor. Each has an expression on his face which says mutely, "Ain't I good!" which somewhat mars the appreciation. Quartets always make good with their harmonies and the Big City Four ranks along with the throng.

The surprise of the program is the voice of the blackface of Cahill and Romaine. Cahill has a remarkable vocal organ. Though bits of the comedy utilized by the couple brought laughs, the song was the thing. As comedians they really are poor; the black has no dialect, and though the Italian has, he seems out of his character. If the boys would convert their act into a straight singing feature, or even, keeping the character of the negro, cut out the stall and sing, they would probably have trouble keeping a sufficient number of hands on to the demands. Petty Roast and others offered an exceptionally pleasant musical act; the older brother's "sing on twelve bottles partially filled with water makes a marked hit. The Pianist offers a neat opener. The gymnast is especially clever. His partner sings with an easy, pleasant voice that is winning. Cahill and Finley put across another bit of music and comedy that wins.

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